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Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000200060005-4

14 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary

SUBJECT : ER 77-1528

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The attached paper [redacted], which has been reviewed by the Staff, is an anthology of comment in the public domain on the uncertainties associated with estimating Soviet defense expenditures and the extent of the Soviet civil defense program. The author does not appear to grind any particular axes, and his presentation, while sophomoric, is essentially fair-minded. At the same time, the author has no weighty thoughts to contribute on these issues. His major conclusion, for example, is that the uncertainty attending these issues cannot be reduced unless the super powers begin spending less on defense or until the Soviet Union begins issuing an annual posture statement. The author's limited knowledgeability and sophistication mean that the contribution he intended to make to the PRM 10 process is not consequential enough that the intelligence officers engaged in these matters should take the time to write a detailed reply. We therefore recommend that the Executive Secretariat send a pro forma response to [redacted] simply acknowledging receipt of his paper and suggesting that it was read by the appropriate intelligence analysts.

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(SIGNED)

[redacted]  
Executive Officer, DCI/NI

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Attachment

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